

Lawn Tennis Lessons for Beginners

By J. PARMLY PARET,

Author of "Methods and Players of Modern Tennis."

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VIII.

ERRORS OF BEGINNERS IN GROUND STROKES.

There are many errors in stroke play which are common to all beginners in lawn tennis, but it is not always easy to give a precise description of the faults. One looks at the pictures and reads the instructions and then goes out to put into execution what has been studied. It seems easy, and many beginners fall into bad habits in blissful ignorance of the trouble that causes them. They think they are following the rules they have studied for good form and a well experienced player tells them of their errors.

It is no easy task to see your own faults and, for this reason, it is an excellent plan to practise swinging the racket in front of a large mirror when possible, to watch the style of the strokes being practised and see if they are as required by the dictators of good form.

In the absence of a professional coach, even the mirror test is not satisfactory, and photographs some of the errors which beginners make, so that they may identify their own mistakes by looking at these pictures. A careful study of the illustrations which accompany this chapter may show some of the stumbling blocks in making ground strokes.

The same troubles that have been described in the chapter on the errors of beginners in positions and grips also apply to the racket and the resulting stroke. The racket should be held in a way that the wrist is not stiff, and the hand should be in a position that the racket can be swung freely. The racket should be held in a way that the wrist is not stiff, and the hand should be in a position that the racket can be swung freely.

With the wrong foot forward for the backhand stroke, another weakness handicaps the player. There is no power in a stroke made in this way, and when combined with a short grip, the player has no chance at all for a full stroke at the ball. When the weight is not on the feet, the arm cannot swing with the arm, and the racket is cut off by the short racket, and the ball is not hit for good speed.

Standing upright, with flat feet, the weight down on the heels, and with stiff knees, also prevents the body from swinging and following through that are needed to make a good stroke. One has to get to throw himself at the ball, so to speak, not wait for it to come to him and then push it away from him.

Even when the ball falls into the habit of hitting the ball away from them, it is not uncommon to see a novice centre all attention on the ball, and when the ball is hit, he is afraid it will hit him. He gives no heed to how he hits the ball or where he hits it, all that he wants is to get it away from him and not come back and hit him.

This is a bad habit of mind to get. You want to get more the idea of hitting the ball to punish it, not to get it away from him. The ball is not to be hit away from him, but to be hit in a way that it will not come back and hit him.

Next under any circumstances move backward when the stroke is being made. All power will be robbed from the blow if your weight is moving away from the ball instead of toward it. A constant error of beginners is to move up too close to the ball as it approaches and then to step back as they strike. No habit could be worse than this. They get in close to the ball and then they will not have time to go forward to meet it, but if they will cultivate the habit of stepping back and then to move forward instead of backward to meet it.

Few beginners ever realize that it is necessary to have the ball abreast of the ball when it is hit. They think it

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Ball Hit Too Far in Front.

Note that the right foot is forward, and although the body is bent, the ball is being played so far in front that all the power of its swing is spent before the blow is delivered. Short grip and extended arm prevent further swing to make a good stroke.

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A Common Error of Beginners.

A novice is shown here trying to play a backhand stroke upward with the arm across in front of his body, and with his feet in the wrong position. This fault is most common among girls when they first begin to learn the game.

DON'T SEND CHILDREN TO COLLEGE TO LEARN
Appetite for Enjoyment and Dancing Chief Results.

One of the most persistent fallacies among parents these days is that they send their children to college to learn something, says "The Chicago Tribune." There is a good reason for sending young persons to college, but it is not education. Parents who send their sons and their daughters, but particularly their daughters, to learn anything really important.

Father, nevertheless, is likely to complain when John comes home for the holidays that he has brought back nothing but a more expensive appetite for enjoyment and a few new dance steps. But if the boy showed a reasonable conviction in favor of free trade or doubt the efficacy of capitalism he would be more than compensated. He would be sure that the professors were teaching badly.

Such comes home, her mind full of house parties and good looking professors, and mother thinks that she might better devote her time to cooking school or learning to supervise the servants.

But if Susie shows a tinge of feminism and announces a determination to give up dances for the law, afternoon tea, and study of nursing, her mother complaining that college has spoiled her. She points to the girl across the street as a desirable daughter, with none of these modern and subversive notions.

Parents do not want their children anything they themselves do not happen to believe. It is perhaps fortunate for the future of higher education that so small a percentage of students really get anything out of their studies. For higher education would not be tolerated. Ideas are uncomfortable things to have about any existing household, especially if they do not happen to agree with them. Parents know that in the case of girls a real higher education runs some of the innocent bloom off their daughters' cheeks. Knowledge is not an asset in the marriage market.

TOOK NO GENIUS TO BUILD PYRAMIDS
Only Good Workmanship Needed, Says Archaeologist.

Another popular fallacy has been punctured by an archaeologist in speaking of the Pyramids. "All that has been said of the wonderful mathematical genius of the ancient Egyptians as exemplified in pyramid building is unfounded," says Dr. Melvin G. Kyle in "The Cincinnati Times-Star." "The Egyptians had some knowledge of geometry, but they were principally, as regards the Pyramids, good workmen."

Yearly trips have been made to Egypt and Babylon by Dr. Kyle, who was with Dr. Petri when the ancient city of Heliopolis was partly uncovered, in 1912. The delights of excavation, it was learned, are quite equal to those of treasure seeking and hunting pirate gold.

"The reason that ancient Egyptians so carefully preserved bodies after death was because they believed that the soul, on returning, would inhabit these same bodies," said Dr. Kyle. "Of course, all could not afford to be embalmed so that their bodies might endure. Just how it was planned that they also might have a future life is not known, but it is thought by many that the little images found in many tombs along with mummified remains of kings or the like may represent the common people, who thus may have enjoyed a sort of proxy system. An overweening majority of the ancient Egyptians, however, were 'relies' acquired by delighted tourists and regularly made for the season's trade. Most of the manufactured scarabs are supposed to be real ones and are usually covered with a sort of green enamel or are carved from gems."

SMOKE-DRIED HEAD
PRESENTED MUSEUMRare Human Trophy of Wild
Brazilian Tribe.

Dr. C. Hart Merriam, of Washington, has just presented the National Museum with a smoke-dried head of a Brazilian Indian secured on the headwaters of the Tapajós River in 1877 or 1878. This greswome object is one of the few specimens in this country of these rare human trophies collected and prepared by the Parentin tribe of the Tapajós River in Para, Brazil.

It is the head of another tribesman, killed and preserved by the Parentins; the dried skin is yellow and stretched tightly over the skull. The black hair hangs loose in bobbed style; the eyes are covered by wax cones ornamented by two small round teeth to imitate the pupils of the eyes, and the ears are still decorated with the cord insertions and tufts of red and yellow parrot feathers worn by the Indian in life. Originally, when used as a trophy, it was suspended by a cord which still emerges from the mouth, but now it is arranged on a stand and may be examined in the museum to-day.

Unlike the better known Jibaro of the upper Amazon, who preserves the heads of their enemies by removing the skull bones and shrinking and drying the skin until the head is much reduced in size, the Parentins leave the head in its normal form. They first remove the brain, then smoke the head by use of an aromatic weed until it is thoroughly dried, and hang it up to decorate their houses.

Dr. Merriam says that about forty years ago, while he was in New York City, Ernest T. Morris, a young South American explorer, came to him with a trophy of a head which he desired to dispose of as soon as possible, being badly in need of funds. In relating his experiences Mr. Morris stated that while he was travelling near the headwaters of the Tapajós River he was captured by the Indians and kept prisoner for several years.

In attempting to make their captive into an Indian like themselves, they painted his cheeks and forehead with native pigments, which he found he could not remove. After two or three years of imprisonment his captors became a little lax in their watch, and he managed to escape in a small boat.

The Rittman process, by which a larger amount of gasoline can be obtained from a given amount of oil than by the methods in general use, is already said to be successfully employed. There are still in existence extensive natural gas fields whose owners will probably engage in the manufacture of gasoline if the experience of the pioneer companies prove profitable.

GERMAN NEWSPAPERS DECREASING.

Since January 1, 1915 newspapers and other periodicals have gone out of business in Germany, making a total of 3,000 discontinued since the war began.

There are probably a thousand varieties of shapes, cuttings, sizes and prices in our brilliant collection of Cut Glass. Price is an important feature, because it brings sparkling designs on pure crystal, with the ring and lustre that only

lead blanks can give, at moderate outlay.

From spoon trays or nappies at 89c, and berry bowls at \$1.98, to a superb vase at \$34.98 or a punch bowl at \$110, the range is complete.

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Among the variety of designs we offer as especially adapted for gifts is an effective white and gold rose garland decoration on tan ground. Prices range from 75c. for a three-piece Whipped Cream Set to \$6.98 for an 18-piece After-Dinner Coffee Set.

100-Piece Limoges China Dinner Sets, \$25

There are three handsome border designs on fine thin white china; the handles and knobs decorated with coin gold in these interestingly-priced French Dinner Sets, which are complete for twelve people. The services have bread and butter plates.

Another handsome 100-piece set in Limoges China is \$34.50.

American Porcelain Dinner Sets, 100 Pieces, \$6.98, \$8.98, \$10.00 and \$12.98.

Cottage Dinner Sets in American porcelain of 48 pieces for six people are \$2.98.

Suggestions Among the Art Wares.

There are charming groups of carefully-selected pieces in this rich display from which many an

artistic gift may be chosen.

Among them:

Nippon Vases, 69c. to \$14.98.

Vases, Composites and Lily Bowls, hand-painted, in Amber Glass, \$5.98 to \$18.98.

Vases in Carnelian Pottery, \$1.18 to \$3.98.

Donatella Pottery Vases and Flower Boxes, with ivory figures against soft green backgrounds, 49c. to \$5.98.

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MAKING GASOLINE
DIRECT FROM GASCompany Erecting Plants in
Cincinnati District.

A large eastern public utility company with extensive natural gas holdings in the Cincinnati district recently announced in its annual statement that three plants in its field were being erected for the manufacture of gasoline directly from gas, says "The Indianapolis News." Another concern with holdings in Wyoming is said to be planning extensive addition to its facilities for utilizing gas in this manner. The idea, oil men say, is not new, but has never been profitable because of the competition of the low price gasoline produced from oil. The present high price of gasoline is expected to change the situation.

Gasoline is made from gas by putting the gas under a high pressure, which reduces it to liquid. So produced, it is said to be highly volatile, and especially suitable for automobile fuel, and for several cents higher than the gasoline produced by ordinary methods. From 1,000 cubic feet of gas, it is said, about five gallons of gasoline can be made. The gas is not affected by the extraction of the gasoline, and can be used afterward for fuel and light.

While the prevailing high price of gasoline is largely due to extraordinary conditions which will probably end at the cessation of the war, the increased demand due to larger consumption brought by the development of the automobile industry will probably operate to maintain prices permanently at a higher level than the normal before the war. This is what the gas men are calculating upon. Expensive equipment would not be installed unless there were prospects that prices would continue high enough to make the investment profitable.

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KING OF WORLD'S RACERS
BECOMES WAR HORSECresceus, Who Held Trotting
Record